



Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Volume XX-04

Number 04

February 2, 2004

NASA Helps Launch National Federation of the Blind's New Research and Training Institute

On Friday, January 30, 2004, the National Federation of the Blind, (NFB), opened their new research and training facility located at the organization's headquarters in Baltimore and NASA was there to help launch the unique center.

breakthroughs in education, rehabilitation, employment opportunities, and research meaningful to the blind through an understanding of the real problems of blindness. The NFB will develop products and services to help the world's blind achieve independence.



Keith Koehler Photo

Phil Eberspaker, right, talks with a NFB visitor about the sounding rocket program.

For the grand opening event, Phil Eberspaker, Chief of the Sounding Rocket Program Office, and Keith Koehler, Public Affairs Office, NASA Wallops Flight Facility, (WFF) exhibited a 8-foot long hybrid rocket similar to the one that will be launched during an NFB science camp for blind youth to be held at WFF later this summer.

Located in south Federal Hill at 1800 Johnson and Wells Streets, NFB's new facility will achieve

NASA also provided several "hands on" opportunities including gloves and tools used by astronauts during spacewalks and

plastic terrain models generated using Mars data that show the shape of the Gusev Crater on the red planet where the "Spirit" Mars Exploration Rovers landed earlier this month.

Special guests attending the grand opening included Honorary Chairman, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.; Mayor Martin O'Malley; Senator Paul S. Sarbanes and Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, Deputy Administrator Fred Gregory and Assistant Administrator for Equal Opportunity Programs Dr. Dorothy Hayden-Watkins along with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Director Al Diaz also attended.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

Federal Computer Week

"Listening to the Arctic Skies" NASA, NOAA use Norwegian facility to gather weather and climate data from satellites.

NASA Creates Ombuds Role

NASA Administrator, Sean O'Keefe, has announced the establishment of NASA's Ombuds Program. Acting in complete confidentiality, the Ombuds are empowered to listen to and act on NASA family members' concerns related to safety, organizational performance and mission success.

The Ombuds are designed to serve as a safety valve when employees feel regular channels for raising issues and concerns are not working effectively.

The establishment of the Ombuds Program was recommended by the Agency-wide Action Team chaired by Goddard Space Flight Center Director Al Diaz. Diaz's team was empowered to apply the findings of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board to other NASA operations.

Jeffrey E. Sutton, Assistant Administrator for Management Systems is NASA's Ombuds Program lead.

Olga M. Dominguez, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management Systems will support

him. Dominguez also is designated to serve as the Ombuds for NASA Headquarters.

The designated Ombuds for GSFC is: Judy Bruner, Assistant Director for Safety and Security, Office of the Center Director

The Ombuds will serve as an honest broker to ensure NASA becomes more accountable and results-oriented.

When issues are brought to the Ombuds, they may conduct informal inquiries, and will seek to promote a mutually satisfactory resolution of the issue or concern.

Each Ombuds will have the ability to raise issues directly with Center Directors, and at NASA Headquarters with the Deputy Administrator. Our Ombuds will be empowered to perform their duties independently and in a diligent and timely manner.

They will maintain confidentiality at all times, unless the person providing information requests or approves otherwise.



Svalsat photo

NASA antennas at the Norwegian Space Centre's, Svalbard Satellite Station, Svalsat.

On the Road

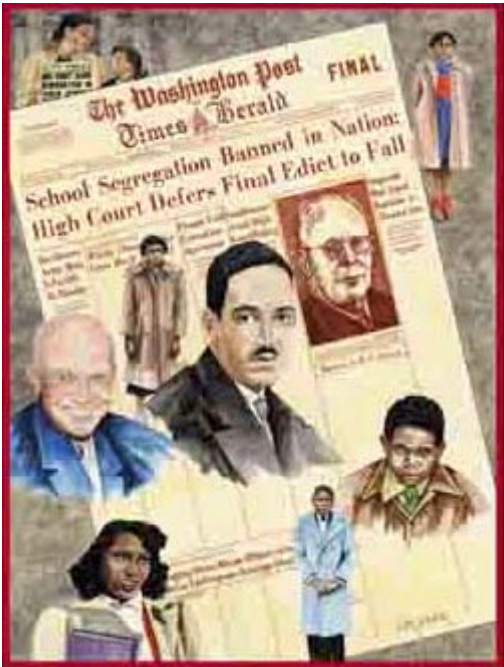
On January 29, Henry Cathey, Physical Science Laboratory, gave a hands-on lecture and demonstration on ballooning to approximately 300 New Mexico middle school students.

Ed Parrott, Wallops Teacher-on-Loan, gave a presentation on rocketry to 30 students at the Excel Science Museum on Saturday, January 31.

All Hands

Center Director Al Diaz will give a State of the Center address on Wednesday, February 4 at 1 p.m. Wallops employees may tune in to Wallops TV Channel 6.

Black History Month, A Time to Reflect on Past Successes



some major civil rights legislation and activism have had on the United States.”

“A lot has happened since 1954 when Thurgood Marshall argued and won the public school desegregation Supreme Court case of little Linda Brown in Brown vs. the Board of Education”, said Brown. “What a historic decision that was – one that changed our schools and our lives!

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson is considered by many as the founder of the annual observance of African-American contributions. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Later he was able to establish Negro History Week as a way to bring national attention to the accomplishments of African - Americans.

His hope was to neutralize the apparent distortions in black history and to provide a more objective and scholarly balance to American and world history. In 1926, Dr. Woodson’s dream became a reality. The second week in February was chosen for it’s proximity to the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; two individuals who dramatically affected the lives of African-Americans. The observance was expanded to Black History Month in 1976.

Activities scheduled at GSFC, Greenbelt, during February include: Carol R. Gibbs presents, “Journey to Justice: The Civil Rights Movement Yesterday and Today”; Professor Larry S. Gibson presents, “Maryland: Brown’s Launch Pad”; Dr. Dorothy Hayden-Watkins, NASA Association Administrator for Equal Opportunities Program Office.

For further information contact Leonard Brown on extension 66-5424.

Renew Your Fitness Club Membership Now

It’s time to renew your Fitness Club membership.

First time membership dues are \$20 per year plus an initial \$5 card deposit. Renewal dues are \$20 year. The card lock will be changed on **T h u r s d a y**, February 5. To purchase a new key card contact:



Robert Tittle on x1244, Tom Wilson on X1570, John Gerlach on x1515 or visit the Wallops Exchange in Building E-2.

The Goddard community will again join our nation in observance of black achievements that have contributed to making America great.

February 2004 is designated as a time for reflection on the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in “Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, KS”.

According to Leonard Brown, African-American Programs Manager, at Goddard Space Flight Center, “February offers a tremendous opportunity for us to reflect upon the historic significance, power and ongoing positive social influences that

Classes are on a first-come, first-served basis; no registrations will be accepted before February 6. For more information, call Marilyn Ailes on x2082 or (757) 336-3441.

Security Tip

Keep a watch out for people standing near you at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc., who have a cell phones in hand. With these new camera cell phones, they can take pictures of your credit card, and get your name, number, and expiration date.



Identification theft is one of the fastest growing scams today and this is just another example of the means that are being used.

Be aware of your surroundings!

Wallops Employee Safety Committee

by Stan Williams

Employee safety committees have become an important part of safety programs in government and private industry. The Wallops Employee Safety Committee (WESC) serves as a forum for civil service and Wallops Employee Morale Activities (WEMA) employees to bring safety and health issues that contribute to safe working environment.

Comprised of volunteers from Codes 200, 500, 800, WEMA, and the American Federation of Government Employees, WESC members proactively work in the following areas to improve the Wallops Safety Program:

Performance Evaluation Profile Survey Assessments – assisting civil service participants with corrective action plans

Facility safety issues – corrective action recommendations

Job Hazard Analysis assistance

Supporting a civil service/contractor teamwork approach to safety

Assistance with safety audits & close call/mishap report follow –ups

Wallops Executive Safety Council interaction

If you or your organization would like to learn more about the Wallops Employee Safety Committee Monthly Meetings or how the committee can help improve your safety program, contact the Safety Office on x2369.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor: Betty Flowers